

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application. Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § under 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. patent 6,157,478 to Naiki et al. (herein “Naiki”). Claims 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. patent 5,220,449 to Kuroda in view of Naiki.

Addressing the above-noted rejections, those rejections are traversed by the present response.

Applicants initially note that each of the independent claims is amended by the present response to clarify features recited therein. Specifically, each of independent claims 1, 12, and 15 is amended by the present response to further recite:

wherein said plurality of holding and fixing locations comprise pins and holes provided to the light source and the optical housing, which pins and holes are combined with insertion of the pins to the holes to determine a relative spatial relationship between the light source part and the optical housing.

Each of independent claims 8, 13, and 15 is amended by the present response to further recite:

wherein said plurality of predetermined locations comprise projections and receiving members provided to the second imaging optical system and the box housing, which projections and receiving members are combined with contact therebetween to determine the mounting portion of said second imaging optical system in the box housing.

Each of the pending claims is now believed to clearly recite features neither taught nor suggested by the applied art. Further, the above-noted claim amendments are believed to be clearly supported by the original specification, as explained below.

With respect to independent claims 1, 12, and 15, attention is directed to Figure 4 in the present specification as a non-limiting example.

As shown in Figure 4 the position of a light-source part in an optical housing is controlled by selecting the pins A1 and A2 or the pins B1 and B2 to be inserted into certain holes A1, A2, B1, B2.

Further, with respect to amended independent claims 8, 13, and 15, and with reference to Figure 12A through 14B in the present specification as a non-limiting example, a mounting portion of a second imaging optical system in a box housing is controlled by utilizing projections 108 and 111 in receiving parts 109, 110, 112, and 113.

The features clarified in the pending claims are believed to clearly distinguish over the applied art.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Naiki nor Kuroda teaches or suggests the specific structure of the “pins and holes” and “projections and receiving members” now clarified in each of the independent claims.

With respect to the feature of the plurality of holding and fixing locations, now clarified to include “pins” and “holes” in independent claims 1, 12, and 18, the outstanding Office Action cites Figures 8-11 and references elements 7a and 10a in Naiki as meeting such claim features. However, it is clear that elements 7a, 10a in Naiki do not correspond to the claimed “pins and holes” now recited in amended independent claims 1, 12, and 14, and the claims dependent therefrom.

With respect to amended independent claims 8, 13, and 15, Naiki does not disclose any feature corresponding to the claim “projections and receiving members”.

Moreover, no teachings in Kuroda can overcome the above-noted deficiencies in Naiki.

In such ways, applicants respectfully submit that each of the amended independent claims 1, 8, 12, 13, 14, and 15, and the claims dependent therefrom, patentably distinguish over the applied art.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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